



January 31, 2023

**CHAIR**

Emily Peterson *Ward 3*

RE: City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission  
No-Knock Warrants Resolution

**VICE CHAIR**

Mala Thao *Ward 1*

On February 2, 2022, Minneapolis police officers served a predawn “no-knock” warrant at an apartment. Within seconds of entering the apartment, Police Officer Mark Hanneman shot and killed Amir Locke, who had been asleep on the couch, wrapped in a blanket. The same tragedy has occurred to other throughout the United States.

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Abdulrahman Mohamed *Ward 1*

The City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission continues to mourn the unjust and untimely death of Amir Locke, a young man of promise, beloved by his friends and family.

Amane Badhasso *Ward 2*

Anna Miranda *Ward 6*

Carlo Franco *Ward 2*

Carson Starkey *Ward 6*

The Commission observed with great concern the process that led to the City of Saint Paul Police Department requesting that the City of Minneapolis Police Department execute a warrant at a Minneapolis address.

Erika Sanders *Ward 4*

Eva Wailes, *Ward 4*

As we approach the first anniversary of Amir Locke’s death at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, it is our collective responsibility to ask ourselves how we can prevent injustices like this in the future.

James Bradford *Ward 2*

Jim Thayer *Ward 1*

Jennifer Thorson *Ward 1*

With this in mind, the City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission makes this statement:

Krystle Igbo-Ogbonna *Ward 2*

Mai Thor *Ward 3*

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies’ use of no-knock warrants arose from a time period in which police departments became increasingly militarized, leading to a policing culture in which cities were treated as war zones instead of communities;

Muria Kruger *Ward 2*

Nonkululeko Shongwe *Ward 4*

R. Lynn Pingol *Ward 2*

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2016, at least 31 civilians were killed during the execution of no-knock warrants around the country;<sup>1</sup>

Robert Lozinski-McLean  
*Ward 7*

WHEREAS, raw numbers do not adequately capture the scope of heartbreak and injustice caused by deaths during no-knock warrant

<sup>1</sup> New York Times, March 18, 2017, "Door-Busting Drug Raids Leave a Trail of Blood," <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/18/us/forced-entry-warrant-drug-raid.html>

execution by law enforcement, it is necessary to say the names of the victims, such as Aiyana Stanley-Jones<sup>2</sup>, Kathryn Johnston<sup>3</sup>, Breonna Taylor<sup>4</sup>, and Amir Locke.

WHEREAS, between September 1, 2021 and February 2, 2022, Minnesota law enforcement agencies reported race data for 94 people who were the subjects of carried-out no-knock warrants. Of these, 66 were Black; 24 were white; 3 were American Indian; and 1 was of unknown race or ethnicity. Black people comprise 7% of Minnesota's population, but 70% of the people who were the subjects of no-knock warrants, an extraordinary disparity;<sup>5</sup> In the city of Minneapolis, 29 no-knock warrants were carried out between September 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022, all of which targeted persons of color (24 African Americans, 3 Native Americans, 1 Hispanic, and 1 Asian American),<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS, according to ACLU research, 42% of SWAT search warrant deployments target Black people;<sup>7</sup>

WHEREAS, approximately 44% of U.S. residents live in a household with a gun, meaning that the potential for violent conflict during the execution of no-knock warrants is grave;<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, the current approval process for no-knock warrants requires minimal judicial review and no concrete legal standard to apply,<sup>9</sup> meaning that law enforcement officers may request and be granted no-knock warrants for situations that do not need one;

WHEREAS, of all the no-knock warrants requested by Minnesota law enforcement agencies between September 1, 2021 and February 2, 2022, judges approved all but one;<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Aiyana Stanley-Jones, 7 years old, was killed by Detroit police in 2010 while she slept on a couch during the execution of a no-knock warrant.

<sup>3</sup> Kathryn Johnston, 94 years old, was killed by Atlanta police in 2006 during the execution of a no-knock warrant.

<sup>4</sup> Breonna Taylor, was killed by Louisville police in 2020 during the execution of a no-knock warrant.

<sup>5</sup> MinnPost, Feb. 2, 2022. <https://www.minnpost.com/state-government/2022/02/state-data-shows-which-minnesota-law-enforcement-agencies-reported-the-most-no-knock-warrants-who-they-target-and-why/>

<sup>6</sup> Kare11, April 28, 2022. <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/investigations/kare-11-investigates-minneapolis-pd-no-knock-warrants-only-target-minorities/89-a1af9602-d277-4acc-8cbc-f552b20be24b>

<sup>7</sup> ABC News, Feb. 10, 2022. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/knock-warrants-amir-lockes-fatal-shooting/story?id=82725760>

<sup>8</sup> Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, Dec. 18, 2020.

<https://kypolicy.org/banning-no-knock-warrants-first-step-in-addressing-police-violence-demilitarization/>

<sup>9</sup> Minn. Stat. 626.14 subd. 3

<sup>10</sup> MinnPost, Feb. 2, 2022. <https://www.minnpost.com/state-government/2022/02/state-data-shows-which-minnesota-law-enforcement-agencies-reported-the-most-no-knock-warrants-who-they-target-and-why/>

WHEREAS, research suggests that no-knock warrants are overrated as a tool for gathering evidence of criminal activity;<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS, police officers making a verbal 20-second or 30-second warning when executing a no-knock warrant does not adequately mitigate the potential for harm in such situations;

WHEREAS, recent media accounts state that the City of Saint Paul Police Department has not executed a no-knock warrant since 2016, the Department reported to the State of Minnesota that a no-knock warrant was executed in October 2021;<sup>12</sup>

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul Police Department has a policy and agreement with the NAACP to serve no-knock warrants only when there is a life-safety threat;

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul Police Department defers to other local jurisdictions in the execution of warrants in investigations that extend beyond Saint Paul borders;

WHEREAS, all residents of the City of Saint Paul deserve access to safe, stable communities, where residents have the opportunity to build relationships of trust and partnership with law enforcement agencies;

WHEREAS, the success and safety of every City of Saint Paul resident is dependent on the success and safety of their neighbors;

THEREFORE, the City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission demands a legal ban on no-knock warrants in the City of Saint Paul and beyond.

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<sup>11</sup> Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, Dec. 18, 2020.

<https://kypolicy.org/banning-no-knock-warrants-first-step-in-addressing-police-violence-demilitarization/>

<sup>12</sup> MinnPost, Feb. 2, 2022. <https://www.minnpost.com/state-government/2022/02/state-data-shows-which-minnesota-law-enforcement-agencies-reported-the-most-no-knock-warrants-who-they-target-and-why/>

Other source material:

- CNN, Feb. 12, 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/12/us/no-knock-warrants-policy-bans-states/index.html>
- Fox 9 KSMP, Feb. 5, 2022. <https://www.fox9.com/news/st-paul-pd-mpls-police-requested-no-knock-warrant-prior-to-amir-locke-shooting>
- Slate, Feb. 10, 2022. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2022/02/jacob-frey-no-knock-amir-locke.html>